IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 11, and add new claims 12-17, so that a complete set of the pending claims will read as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for adjusting the external clock of a central processing unit (CPU), the CPU ~~equipped~~ being employed in a computer system, the computer system at least comprising an external-clock storage device and a south bridge circuit, the method comprising steps of:

setting an external-clock value and storing the external-clock value into the external-clock storage device;

starting an external-clock altering procedure and turning off the computer system;

starting a wake-up circuit as the computer system is being turned off;

after the turning off of the computer system, waking up the south bridge circuit in a wake-up time by feeding a wake-up signal from the wake-up circuit into the south bridge circuit;

rebooting the computer system by the south bridge circuit responsive to the wake-up signal; and

providing the central processing unit with the external clock according to the external-clock value stored in the external-clock storage device.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is a notebook computer.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is a desktop computer.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the wake-up time is about one second.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the external-clock storage device comprises a plurality of registers.

6. (Currently Amended) A circuit capable of adjusting the external clock of a CPU ~~equipped~~ employed in a computer system, comprising:

a keyboard controller for setting an external-clock value of the CPU;

an external-clock storage device coupled to the keyboard controller for storing the external-clock value;

a south bridge circuit for starting an external-clock altering procedure, turning off and turning on the computer system;

a wake-up circuit coupled to the south bridge circuit for waking up the south bridge circuit in a wake-up time after the turning off of the computer system; and

a clock generator coupled to the external-clock storage device for providing the central processing unit with the external clock according to the external-clock value stored in the external-clock storage device.

7. (Original) The circuit according to claim 6, wherein the computer system is a notebook computer.

8. (Original) The circuit according to claim 6, wherein the computer system is a desktop computer.

9. (Original) The circuit according to claim 6, wherein the wake-up time is about one second.

10. (Original) The circuit according to claim 6, wherein the external-clock storage device comprises a plurality of registers.

11. (Currently Amended) The circuit according to claim 6, wherein the wake-up circuit comprises ~~resisters~~ an RC circuit having resistors and capacitors ~~(RC) circuit~~.

12. (New) An apparatus capable of adjusting an external clock of a CPU employed in a computer system, the apparatus comprising:

a south bridge circuit;

an external-clock storage device for storing an external-clock value;

a wake-up circuit coupled to the south bridge circuit for waking up the south bridge circuit in a wake-up time after the turning off of the computer system when the external clock of the CPU is required to be adjusted; and

a clock generator coupled to the external-clock storage device for providing the central processing unit with the external clock,

wherein when the external clock of the CPU is to be adjusted, the wake-up circuit starts as the computer system is being turned off and the wake-up circuit generates a wake-up signal to wake up the south bridge circuit in the wake-up time after the turning off of the computer system, and

wherein the clock generator provides the central processing unit with the external clock according to the external-clock value stored in the external-clock storage device after the south bridge circuit is waken up through the wake-up circuit.

13.   (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the computer system is a notebook computer.

14.   (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the computer system is a desktop computer.

15.   (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the wake-up time is about one second.

16.   (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the external-clock storage device comprises a plurality of registers.

17.   (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the wake-up circuit comprises a resistor-capacitor (RC) circuit.